

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION  
TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 3**

**Columbia River Compact  
February 21, 2017**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>
Treaty Commercial Winter Gillnet Fishery

**STOCK STATUS**

- Stock status information is available in Winter Fact Sheet #1 (January 31, 2017) and in the January 20, 2016 Winter/Spring/Summer Joint Staff Report and the 2017 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 30, 2017).

**TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES**

- The preliminary Zone 6 treaty commercial sturgeon harvests and commercial guidelines are shown in the table below. These catches include the fish recorded on fish tickets for Week's 6 and 7 (February 5-18) plus a small number of fish not sold on fish tickets as well as estimates for the first two days of week 8. No other species have been reported harvested.

<b>Pool</b>	<b>Slot Limit (inches, fork length)</b>	<b>January Setline</b>	<b>Winter Gillnet</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Commercial Harvest Guideline</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
<b>Bonneville</b>	38-54	0	0	0	325	325
<b>The Dalles</b>	43-54	0	132	132	325	193
<b>John Day</b>	43-54	0	118	118	295	177
<b>Total</b>		0	250	250	945	695

- There was a setline fishery open in all three pools in January but no harvest has been reported. The winter gillnet fishery has harvested a total of 250 fish through Monday. No other species have been reported harvested to date. The fisheries in both the John Day Pool and The Dalles Pool are currently scheduled to close tomorrow at 6:00 PM (Wednesday February 22).
- The sturgeon catch per day continues to be below the recent year average rate for this time of year for the John Day pool but has increased to above the recent average for The Dalles Pool. Catch rates generally increase as the season progresses.
- Tribal staff are projecting that catches this week will continue at least at the rates over the past few days and will increase again for the beginning of week 9 which begins next Sunday. Based on these projections, tribal staff project the total John Day pool catch to be approximately 250 on March 1 and The Dalles Pool catch to be approximately 290 on March 1. Based on these projections, both fisheries in will still be within their commercial harvest guidelines by March 1.

- The tribes may propose additional openings or extensions of the sturgeon treaty commercial fisheries once the updated catch numbers have been considered early next week.
- All four tribes agreed to the extension of the commercial fisheries as presented in the following table.

<b>2017 Treaty Indian Zone 6 Commercial Gillnet Fishery</b>	
<b>Dates/Time:</b>	Extend the ongoing fishery through 6:00 PM Wednesday March 1.
<b>Area:</b>	John Day Pool and The Dalles Pool
<b>Gear:</b>	Gillnets with no mesh restriction.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length, Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, and yellow perch may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sales of fish are allowed after the fishing period as long as they were landed during the open period.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	River mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnets in effect.
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	Quick reporting required for all Washington Fish Buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.14(d), and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The current regulations for the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries do not require modification at this time.
- There is no specific guideline for treaty subsistence harvest of sturgeon, but these fish are accounted for.
- Tribal fishery monitors will monitor fisheries and assist in collection of biological data.
- State and tribal staff will work cooperatively to report harvest on a regular basis.
- Sturgeon fisheries will be closed earlier if harvest guidelines for that pool are met before the scheduled end dates.
- The tribes also expect to set an opening for the Bonneville Pool fishery after the fisheries in the upper pools are concluded.
- The tribes request another Compact to be scheduled in the late afternoon on February 28<sup>th</sup> after the tribes have updated their plans for this fishery.